Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A stent comprising: a main body defining a plurality of cells, the main body including opposite ends; an end structure adapted to be flared relative to the main body, the end structure being located adjacent at least one of the ends of the main body; and the end structure including predefined bend locations comprising areas of reduced cross-section as compared to areas of adjacent locations for facilitating flaring of the end structure relative to the main body.

2. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the end structure includes a plurality of cantilever members having base ends connected to the main body at the predefined bend locations.

3. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein each predefined bend location includes one or more notches.

4. (Cancelled) The stent of claim 1, wherein the predefined bend locations include areas of reduced cross-section as compared to areas of adjacent locations.

5. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 1 [4], wherein the areas of reduced cross-section are in the range of 15-60 percent smaller than the

areas of the adjacent locations.

6. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the predefined bend locations include notches provided at interior and exterior surfaces of the stent.

7. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the predefined bend locations include notches provided at exterior surfaces of the stent.

8. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the predefined bend locations include notches provided at interior surfaces of the stent.

9. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 2, wherein the cantilever members include enlargements in which x-ray visible markers are positioned.

10. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the predefined bend locations include shoulders.

11. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the end structure includes a plurality of end struts having base ends connected to the main body.

12. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 11, further comprising linking members that extend between the end struts.

13. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 12, wherein the linking

members are configured to straighten as the end struts are flared.

14. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising: a main body defining a plurality of cells, the main body having opposite ends; a plurality of end struts adapted to be flared relative to the main body, the end struts being integrally connected with at least one of the ends of the main body; and the end struts including regions of reduced radial wall thickness for facilitating flaring of the end struts relative to the main body.

15. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 14, wherein the end struts are connected to the main body at connection locations, and wherein the regions of reduced radial wall thickness are located adjacent to the connection locations.

16. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 14, wherein the regions of reduced radial wall thickness are provided by notches.

17. (Previously Presented) The stent of clam 14, wherein the regions of reduced radial wall thickness are defined by shoulders.

18. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising: a main body including a plurality of support members defining a plurality of open cells, the support members extending about a circumference of the main body and each defining an undulating pattern having a plurality of peaks and valleys; a plurality of end struts adapted to be flared relative to the main body, the end struts being connected to at least some of the peaks of the main body; and the end struts defining notches for facilitating flaring of the end struts

relative to the main body.

19. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 18, wherein the main body includes an end support member having a plurality of peaks and valleys, and wherein the end struts are connected to every other peak of the end support member.

20. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 18, wherein the main body includes an end support member having a plurality of peaks and valleys, and wherein the end struts are connected to every third peak of the end support member.

21. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 18, wherein the main body includes an end support member having a plurality of peaks and valleys, and wherein the end struts are connected to every peak of the end support member.

22. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 18, wherein each end strut includes two enlargements including radiopaque markers.

23. (Canceled) A method for implanting a stent at a junction between first and second vessels, the stent including a main body and an end structure adapted to be flared relative to the main body, the stent also including predefined bend locations for facilitating flaring the end structure relative to the main body, the method comprising: positioning the stent such that the main body is located within the first vessel, the end structure extends into the second vessel, and the predefined bend locations are located adjacent

the junction between the first and second vessels; radially expanding the main body into contact with an interior surface of the first vessel; and flaring the end structure relative to the main body such that the end portion generally conforms with an interior surface of the second vessel, the end structure being flared by bending the stent at the predefined bend locations while maintaining the predefined bend locations adjacent the junction between the first and second vessels.

24. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising: a main body defining a plurality of cells, the main body having opposite ends; a plurality of end struts adapted to be flared relative to the main body; and the end struts having lengths, and the end struts being thinned along their lengths relative to the main body for facilitating flaring of the end struts relative to the main body.

25. (New) The stent of claim 1, wherein the stent includes a central longitudinal axis, and the areas of reduced cross-section are reduced in a radial direction relative to the central longitudinal axis of the stent.

26. (New) The stent of claim 14, wherein the stent includes a central longitudinal axis, and the regions of reduced wall thickness are reduced in a radial direction relative to the central longitudinal axis of the stent.

27. (New) The stent of claim 18, wherein the stent includes a central longitudinal axis, and the notches include areas of reduced cross-section that are reduced in a radial direction relative to the central longitudinal axis of the stent.

28. (New) A delivery system comprising:

a catheter for delivering a stent; and

a stent mounted on said catheter, said stent comprising:

(a) a main body defining a plurality of cells, the main body including opposite ends;

(b) an end structure adapted to be flared relative to the main body,

(c) the end structure being located adjacent at least one of the ends of the main body; and

(d) the end structure including predefined bend locations comprising areas of reduced cross-section as compared to areas of adjacent locations for facilitating flaring of the end structure relative to the main body.

29. (New) The delivery system of claim 28, wherein the stent includes a central longitudinal axis, and the areas of reduced cross-section are reduced in a radial direction relative to the central longitudinal axis of the stent.

30. (New) A method for implanting a stent at a junction between a first and a second vessel, the method comprising:

(a) providing a stent having:

(1) a main body including opposite ends; and

(2) an end structure adjacent one of the opposite ends, the end structure adapted to be flared relative to the main body, the end structure including predefined bend locations comprising areas of

reduced cross-section as compared to areas of adjacent locations for facilitating flaring the end structure relative to the main body;

(b) positioning the stent such that the main body is located within the first vessel and the end structure extends into the second vessel; and

(c) radially expanding the main body into contact with an interior surface of the first vessel and causing the end structure to flare such that it is in contact with the interior surface of the second vessel.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the stent includes a central longitudinal axis, and the area of reduced cross-section of the stent is reduced in a radial direction relative to the central longitudinal axis of the stent.